



The Hourglass



And he lived to tell about it!—I don't think anyone could believe a person might live through such a plane crash, but Cliff Henderson did! I can't locate the newspaper article telling about it, but I believe this happened between 1919-1922.

Cliff was flying a mail plane route in New Mexico when he got caught in a box canyon. His little plane didn't have the power to pull up and over the mountains. His decision, then, was to try landing near the railroad tracks he'd been following from the air.

As you can see, he did land next to the tracks. The angels were surely with him. Somewhere in the nearby woods lumbermen were taking down trees. They heard the crash, then loud moaning. Somehow they miraculously eased him out of the plane, put him in a truck, and took him to a hospital—where I cannot imagine in that lonely locale.

I don't know how extensive were his injuries, but he obviously got well fairly soon as it wasn't long before he was in Santa Monica, CA as Chairmen of the local S.M Chamber's Aviation Committee.

Museum Hours 10 AM to 3 PM — Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

Event Calendar

Jan. 14-22/Desert Art Show
at the Fire Station/Museum
during regular Museum hours

Jan. 28/Lecture
"History of the Marine Corps
Air Ground Combat Center"
by John Hale, Ph.D.
Portola Center, 7 PM

Feb. 2-19/Art Show
Coachella Water Color Art Show
at the Fire Station/Museum
Coachella Valley WaterColor
Society, 10 AM To 3 PM

Feb. 25/Lecture
"Geology of
the Coachella Valley"
by Bruce Bridenbecker, M.S.,
Professor of Earth Sciences,
Copper Mountain College
at the Portola Center, 7 PM

March 5/Wildflower Festival
By the Friends of the Desert
Mountains
Santa Rose & San Jacinto
Mountains National Monument
Visitor Center
51-500 Hwy 74, 8 AM to 4 PM

EVENT CALENDAR
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Wow! The last issue of the newsletter really turned out great. My compliments to Duchess.

The fall has been busy and the spring looks even busier. We had two 'Coffee and Conversations.' Unfortunately, the one by Bob Keeran was not well attended, but for those who were there, we got an extra special, conversational type presentation.

The second 'Coffee and Conversation' was really something to experience. We had a great turnout, and Ms Schuler had three students who spoke about their experiences in the class activities. After watching, one has to be enthused about the quality of the students coming out of our high schools.

The yard sale, led by Adele Sandman and with a great support team, was outstanding. Everything seemed to go so smoothly that we were concerned that nothing was happening; however, at the end, other than a lot of glassware, the yard was pretty well cleaned out and our bank was refilled by more than \$5,000!

Mini-muster, led by John and Madonna Marman (who are, as I write this, in Argentina polishing up on their tango), went off almost without a hitch. I said "almost" because we got rained out one day and had to reschedule for one week later. Again, many people work to support this. In particular, special thanks to the local fire department for their support.

The winners of the mini-muster art contest rode on the fire engine, piloted by Hal Rover with trusty co-pilot Jan Holmlund, in the 'Golf Cart Parade.' Here again, we had a team of volunteers polish

the engine the week before. We were not sure we would make it when the day following the 'polish party' the engine would not start. The fire department came to the rescue with a new fuel pump and we were on our way.

The Fall Luncheon was well attended with outstanding food and a great presentation by Hal Rover on the history of Palm Desert. Thank you to Barbara Eastes for coordinating this.

We had a book signing at the Palm Desert Costco in December for our book *Images of America—Palm Desert*. To purchase a copy, contact the Society.

Starting in January we will have our 'Fire House Lecture Series' on the fourth Fridays, the Desert ARC Art Show from Jan. 14 to Jan. 22, and the Coachella Valley Watercolor Art Show from Feb. 5 to Feb. 19. We also have the second grade tours coming up this spring, the annual Ed Mulins' Picnic and Founder's Day. We may even throw a few more things.

One of the surprises for this spring is a dinner for 6 sponsored by Kay McCune at the Randall Henderson House located on Larrea Street in Palm Desert. Information on this event is shown separately in this news letter. Don't miss your chance at this great evening! Thank you so much to Kay McCune for suggesting and offering to host this one-of-a-kind event. She will be assisted by Kelly Flanagan and Fred Montano. Ten dollars for a three course dinner for six!

None of this would happen without the work and support of your board, the volunteers, and Anne Tuttle. It is our membership that makes it happen. Thank you!

The Mission and Purpose of the Historical Society of Palm Desert (HSPD)

To preserve, record and provide access to its historical collections.

To relate an on-going history of the City through exhibits, publications, media, programs and events.

To support, with volunteer efforts, activities sponsored through the Society and co-sponsorship with other private and public agencies.

HSPD is organized as a non-profit corporation that supports its mission and purposes in a responsible manner. The Society cares for the materials and pieces in its possession as unique and irreplaceable objects of local history and strives to protect and preserve its collections for posterity.

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Newsletter

Duchess Emerson, editor
Ty Davison, layout

Obituaries

Notable Palm Desert lives remembered

JEAN ERNST

What can I say about Jean Ernst...it is hard to put into words the wonderful relationship I shared with her. We first met on December 2002 at the Board of Directors meeting where I was introduced as the new office manager. As the volunteer chairman, she stayed after the meeting to acquaint me with the displays and their history.

As I settled into my position as office manager, I was astounded at the amount of work and time involved in putting our events together and I could always rely on Jean for assistance.

My favorite memory was my first "Ed Mullins Picnic" in March 2003. She called and said she would be there to help at the sign-in table and reminded me to wear my red Historical Society T-shirt. She arrived at 10:30 a.m. in her red shirt and that great big smile and we promptly went to work setting up our tables. No matter what the event, Jean was always happy to help.

She was a very special lady and missed by all!

—Anne Tuttle

Newsbits

Cheryl Shuler, a history teacher at La Quinta High School, was our speaker at the November Coffee and Conversation.

The project that most of us were interested in hearing about was her history scavenger hunt. The students have over 100 clues to pick from. They only have to do about 10. The clues lead them to locations all over the valley. One of the clues might be a fire station built in the 1950s. The student has to locate this building and have his picture taken in front of the building. Then as part of the report on the scavenger hunt, the student must present the picture and an explanation of why this particular place or item is of historical significance. We have seen students run up to our front porch at the old fire station and then run away before we could get out the door to see what was going on. We had been 'hit' by Ms Shuler's crew. She shared the list of all of the current clues for the scavenger hunt.

Three of Ms. Shuler's students spoke of their experiences in her class and on the scavenger hunt. The three young ladies were sharp and gave outstanding presentations. Not many adults could stand in front of a room full of strangers and speak as well as they did. It should also be noted that they all spoke glowingly of Ms. Shuler.

We have some outstanding teachers, and more important, we have some outstanding students coming through our schools. Thank you Ms. Shuler for the job you are doing with our youth.

EVENT CALENDAR (FROM PAGE 1)

March 25/Lecture

"Coachella Valley Fish Traps (Salton Sea)"

by Leslie Mouriquand, M.A., R.P.A.,

Riverside County Archaeologist and Cultural Liaison

Portola Center, 7 PM

March 27/Ed Mullins Picnic in the Park

Saturday at 11:30 AM

April 22/Lecture

"Gateways to Southern California"

by John Robinson, Historian,

Author of *Gateways to Southern California*

Portola Center, 7 PM

May 4/Founders' Day Award

Palm Desert City Hall, 2 PM to 4 PM

Portola Community Center

45-480 Portola Ave., Palm Desert

Lectures start at 7 PM and are \$5 at the door. For

more information call the Desert Institute at

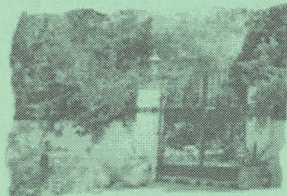
760-367-5535 or the Historical Society of Palm

Desert at 760-346-6588.

The Historical Society of Palm Desert will be closing for the summer on June 4, 2011.

Any questions—please go to www.hspd.org/calendar.

**DINNER FOR 6
AT THE RANDALL HENDERSON HOUSE**



**PRESENTED BY
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT**

HOSTED BY KAY McCUNE

**\$10 PER ENTRY
DRAWING ON JANUARY 28, 2011**

DINNER DATE AND 3 COURSE MENU TO BE ARRANGED BY WINNER

**COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW
AND RETURN WITH YOUR DONATION
TO
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT
P.O. BOX 77
PALM DESERT, CA 92260**

**RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE BY PHONE
760.346.6588**

**TICKETS FOR ALL ENTRIES WILL BE SENT
UPON RECEIPT OF FUNDS**

Details are available at the Historical Society

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Please cut along dotted line

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____ Telephone (____) _____
E-mail _____

No. of tickets _____ Amount enclosed _____

SOME MORE LITTLE KNOWN PALM DESERT HISTORY

The Palm Desert Raiders!

Early in Palm Desert history a delightful couple, Bob and Dee—last name I can't recall—who owned a stable in Big Bear, decided to bring their horses down to Palm Desert for Fall, Winter and Spring for several years.

This was an incredible joy for many of us in the desert who were horse lovers. Riding out in the gorgeous desert was such a treat. No crowds, the date and grapefruit orchards were still aplenty, the sage, cactus—well, all the beautiful desert plant life—abounded, the barancas, the rock formations, the huge big sky, and the backdrop of the mountains made riding in the Palm Desert Cove and out across Hwy 111 to the sand dunes almost a spiritual experience to us dedicated horse folks. It was my Uncle Carl Henderson, a true equestrian, along with a few other early PD settlers who dreamed up the idea of having a regular early morning Saturday ride. So we did just that and the idea took off.

The hard core group of us—which happily included all ages, since I was 11—decided we should have a name and purpose. The name, Palm Desert Raiders, was easy after we decided upon our purpose. That purpose was to raid someone's kitchen each week.

Of course, we had to give them advanced notice so they would be prepared for the onslaught of a bunch of horses and their hungry riders who, at about 10 AM or so on a Saturday, would "raid" their kitchen looking for donuts, coffee cakes, fruit, coffee milk and etc. We loved it, those being "raided" always got huge kick out of it, and all the friendships which grew brought our Palm Desert a lot closer.

Two times we rode up to my folks little Hot Rocks house in the Cahuilla Hills. It was quite a jaunt up there, but all involved seemed to love the change of pace. (Those of you who have the Arcadia Palm

Desert book will find within photos and a small description of the Hot Rocks.)

Soon we realized we needed Raider shirts as we had progressed to performing square dances on horseback right there at the big ring by the stables. We ordered them in green with yellow SATIN. Yes, these were the shirts we wore on each Saturday ride! I think those square dance occasions were so special that we, and the horses too, were so excited to be doing it—and in front of an audience too! It all made

for wonderful
wonderful
memories!

Soon we were
invited to ride
in the annual
Palm Springs
parade which
we proudly

"A couple of decades later...I realized the Mr. Bergen, with whom I had chatted, was Edgar Bergen!"

joined. I don't think any of us thought we'd ever be invited to Palm Springs to do anything. It was quite special!

We rode as group for some years, always welcoming any newcomers who wanted to join us. Bob and Dee had superb horses—we were very lucky! One day I ended up riding along next to a wonderful older gent. We chatted about this and that like old friends; it was delightful. It was a couple of decades later when thinking of those days, I realized the Mr. Bergen, with whom I had chatted, was Edgar Bergen!

One week we were told to be at the stables very early the next Saturday morn as we were to undertake a most unusual ride; not one for the weak of heart. We headed south, up to

THE PALM DESERT RAIDERS!
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THE PALM DESERT RAIDERS!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the top of the PD Cove and then made a sharp turn east up into the mountains. As I look at what we did then, I have no idea now how we, and more importantly, the horses made it up the very steep rocky grades to the top. We were following an Indian path marked by little rock piles every several feet. We rode along the ridge line for some time and then headed down into La Quinta. Now when I go to La Quinta, I pullover and park to study those steep steep craggy hills coming down into to flat land, and wonder how in the world we all did it without even one mishap? I've yet to figure it out!

In those marvelous "olden" times, many days I'd go out riding alone on my favorite horse, Blondie. We'd leave early in the morn and head out wherever the breezes took us. Often we'd go through a grapefruit orchard, and I'd pick a piece of fruit or two for breakfast. I hope no one cared. The world was so beautiful, so open, so peaceful. No traffic, smog, computers, iPhones, Blackberries and so forth to keep me from enjoying nature at its best.

One day Joy Olson, an excellent rider and the only other young girl I knew in PD, and I took two of the stables' most exciting horses out for a ride. We packed a little lunch hoping to stop some wonderful place to eat. We headed out toward the sand dunes, now the Marriott establishment. We had to go down into the wash and back up, and not faraway we saw a big dune with lots of growth on it. Great, a place to tie up the horses while we ate. And we did just that—but only into a couple of bites when we saw a cloud of dust and heard a pounding of hooves! And yes, you're right.

Our two big thoroughbreds—ex-race horses—had pulled loose from the little bushes and off they raced. We were undone, to say the least. Miles—well, two maybe—from anything like a farmhouse or such. So we started walking, and were so worried the horses

*"Our two big thoroughbreds...
had pulled loose from the little
bushes and off they raced."*

would run
right over the
edge of the
wash. There
was no
warning that
the wash was

there—the foliage grew right up to the edge. How would they know it was there?

When we finally reached it and looked way down into the wash, thank God, there were no dead horses we could see. So we kept walking and finally reached an old unpaved desert road which we took hoping it would get us somewhere we could get help. And it was getting *very* hot out there. Dear God, out of the blue came an ancient pickup with an equally ancient farmer driving it. Bless his heart, he stopped, asked what was the trouble, piled us into the truck, headed across Hwy 111 and back up the road to the stables. Soon we spotted what looked like a posse—with *two saddle-less horses* in hand. The whole stable gang was on their way to try to find us, hopefully, alive and not too injured. All's well that ends well, but we two girls learned a some very good lessons that day!

Those times are precious to those of us of who remember the early simple and happy days. But Palm Desert is so beautiful and amazing now—just in differing ways. Palm Desert Cove will always be a *very* special piece of God's property!

Happy New Year to all,

Duchess



A toast to success!—Adele Sandman, the chairperson of this year's yard sale, raises a glass in the midst of event.

Yard sale raises over \$5,000 in two days

This year's yard sale went extremely well under the leadership of Adele Sandman. As you all know this does not happen without the efforts of many people and many hours being spent. Thank you to all of you who helped out. Also, thanks to all of the people who supported our efforts either through donations of items or through the purchase of items. Some of us both gave and bought!

The first morning, shortly before 7, it was not looking too promising. There were no hordes at the gate. The decision was made to allow the half-dozen folks who were there in early to explore with

understanding that they could not check out until we were fully set up at 7. We dropped the gates and there must have been another dozen hiding around the corner. But it still never really seemed busy both days. It was steady but we were all concerned that there was not enough traffic.

In the end, we did significantly better than last year, not as good as some past years, but still we cleared over \$5,000. Not bad and our expenses were minimal.

Adele did a great job leading the troops. Everybody worked together to make it a great sale. Thanks again to all who participated in every way possible.

Newsbits

ELECTRONIC SIDE LIGHTS

Don't forget to check out our web site at www.hspd.org. Eric continues to make changes. If you have any suggestions, let Eric know. He is very quick to respond to suggestions. You will note that we have only the first page of the newsletter on the web site. The board felt that the newsletter in its entirety should go to the members only. However, we want to let others know the quality of our newsletter and perhaps encourage them to join. Therefore, we are putting the first page on the web site.

If you are currently receiving your newsletter via e-mail and would like to discontinue receiving the paper edition, please let us know. You can e-mail Anne at anne.hspd@verizon.net or give her a call at 760.346.6588. This could save us a lot of money in printing and postage.

If you are not currently receiving your newsletter via e-mail but would like to, please contact Anne at

anne.hspd@verizon.net or give her a call at 760.346.6588. You will not only help us save some money but you will also get the color version with color photographs.

ART SHOW

The Historical Society of Palm Desert is pleased to announce and sponsor an Art Show displaying the works of individuals associated with Desert Arc, a local organization working with people with disabilities.

Upcoming show dates are January 17 (Monday), January 19 (Wednesday), January 21 (Friday) and January 22 (Saturday). Show hours are 10 AM to 3 PM.

The show is being held at the Palm Desert Historical Society Museum (The Old Firehouse) at 72861 El Paseo Drive, Palm Desert.

For additional information, please call 760-346-6588.

Historical Society of Palm Desert
PO Box 77
Palm Desert, CA 92261